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# Lectotypification of *Allium tel-avivense* (Liliaceae) Endemic to Israel

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**ABSTRACT.** *Allium tel-avivense* Eig (Liliaceae), endemic to Israel, is lectotypified.

**Key words:** *Allium*, Israel, Liliaceae.

*Allium tel-avivense* Eig (Liliaceae) was published in Eig et al. (1931: 75). Eig provided the following characters (translated from the original Hebrew text) and contrasted them with the characters of *A. aschersonianum* Barbey as a part of a key to the species of *Allium* L.:

“15. Plants short (10–25 cm) of the region of the sea shore; leaves usually undulate and prostrate. [perennial herb] light soils. Shefela, Sharon [Plain], Acco Plain. January–April...*A. tel-avivense* Eig

—Plants 30–50 cm high of the Negev and Jordan Valley; leaves much shorter than stem; filaments white. Negev, Lower Jordan Valley. March–May...*A. aschersonianum* Barb.”

*Allium tel-avivense* was demoted to the rank of subspecies under *A. aschersonianum* Barbey by Oppenheimer (Oppenheimer & Evenari, 1940: 189). Oppenheimer contended that the name *A. tel-avivense* was not described adequately by Eig et al. (1931) and the characters that distinguish this new subspecies of *A. aschersonianum* were not published in Latin; thus, it remained a nomen nudum. Oppenheimer provided a reference to the basionym, a detailed description in Latin, and a line drawing, and cited a single specimen ([AAR] 985).

Feinbrun (1948) recognized *Allium tel-avivense* as a distinct species on the basis of a comparative caryological and morphological study of *A. tel-avivense*, *A. aschersonianum*, and *A. dumetorum* Feinbrun & Szelubsky (Szelubsky, 1950). She reduced *A. aschersonianum* subsp. *tel-avivense* (Eig) Oppenheimer to synonymy of *A. tel-avivense*, provided a diagnosis in Latin and a detailed description in English, and established the name taxonomically by comparing the main characters that distinguish *A. tel-avivense* from *A. aschersonianum*. She reiterated Oppenheimer's assertion that the name *A. tel-avivense* remained a nomen nudum until her publication. Later, she clarified that the name “is valid” according to the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Feinbrun-Dothan, 1986: 97). However, she did not cite any article to support that clarification.

Indeed, the name *Allium tel-avivense* was validly published by Eig (Eig et al., 1931) since the requirements of Articles 32–45 of the ICBN (McNeill et al., 2006) have been satisfied for valid publication prior to 1935. In particular, since the name was published prior to 1 January 1935, there was no requirement for a Latin description (ICBN Art. 36, McNeill et al., 2006). Consequently, Oppenheimer's assertion was not correct. In addition, Eig did clearly provide in his key a number of differentiating characters. However, Eig did not cite a type or refer to type material and accordingly, there is no holotype. Also, there is no evidence on AAR 985 or in the literature that Eig could have seen that specimen. Feinbrun (1948: 148) cited 11 specimens deposited in HUJ as “Specimens seen.” Feinbrun did annotate each of those 11 specimens (plus two additional ones at HUJ) as syntype. Nonetheless, those specimens cannot stand as syntypes (ICBN Art. 9.4, McNeill et al., 2006) since Eig referred to localities and did not cite specimens.

Any specimen for which there is evidence that Eig had studied prior to 1931 would be considered as original material. There is no evidence that AAR 985 was one of the specimens used by Eig in preparing his key, and thus it is not eligible as the lectotype (J. McNeill, 2006, pers. comm.). Of the 11 specimens cited by Feinbrun (1948) (i.e., the lectotype and in Specimens examined, both below), Eig was the sole collector of three and co-collector of four additional specimens. Eig was also the sole collector of two and co-collector of three additional specimens, which were not cited by Feinbrun and are deposited in HUJ. Among the specimens collected by Eig only, HUJ 25824 (Fig. 1) bears his original handwritten label. Thus, this specimen best qualifies for original material that can be selected as a lectotype. It is also a very good specimen comprising all plant organs. The official HUJ specimen label further bears the annotation “*Allium tel avivense* Eig” in Feinbrun's handwriting.

**Allium tel-avivense** Eig, Pl. Palestine Anal. Key: 75. 1931. *Allium aschersonianum* Barbey subsp. *tel-avivense* (Eig) Oppenheimer, in Oppenheimer & Evenari, Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève, 2<sup>m</sup> sér., 31: 189, Fig. VII. 1940. TYPE: [Israel.] Philistean



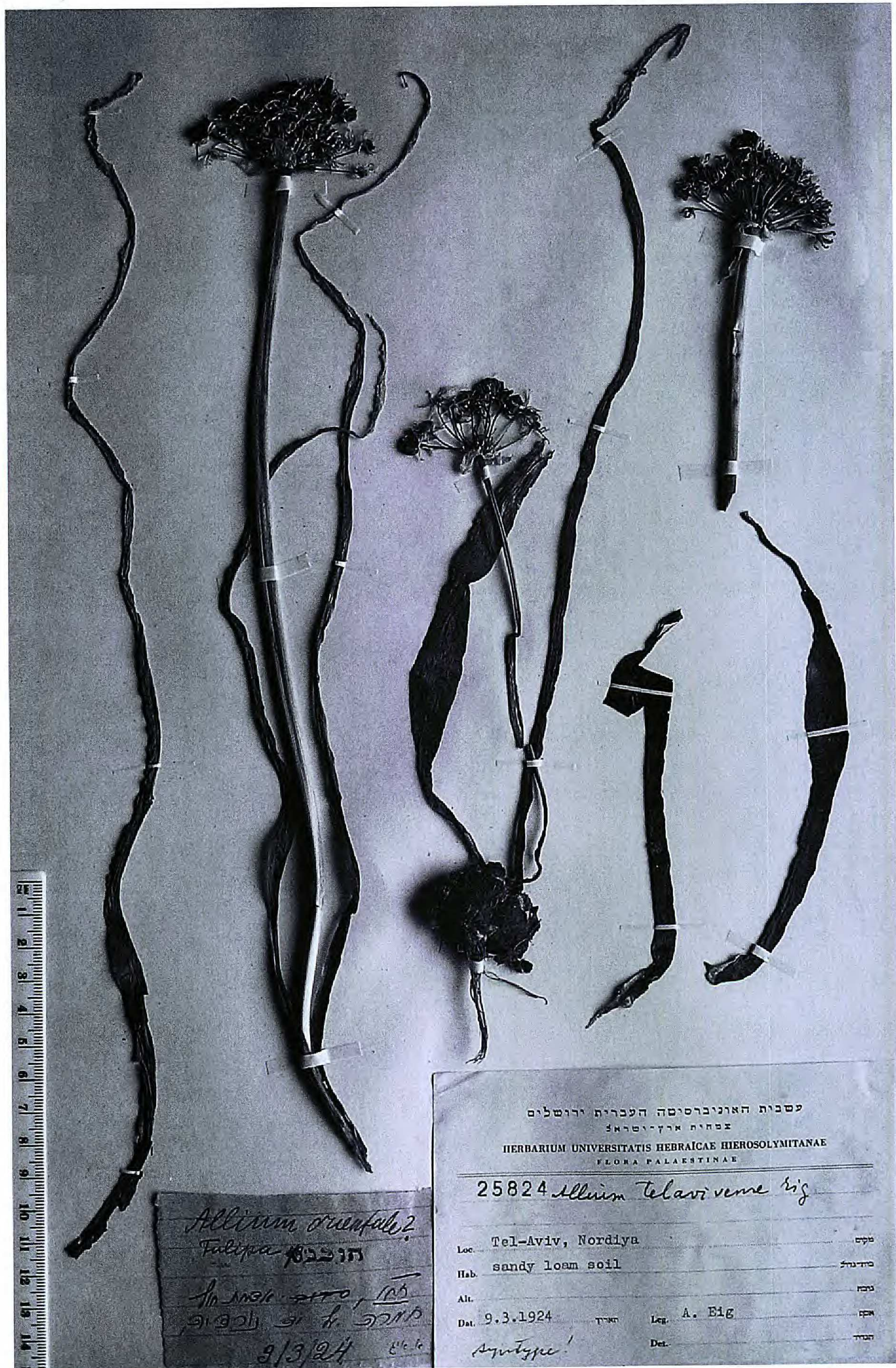


Figure 1. Lectotype of *Allium tel-avivense* Eig (A. Eig s.n., HUI 25824).

Plain, Tel Aviv, near Nordiya, 9 Mar. 1924, A. Eig s.n. (lectotype, designated here, HUI 25824).

*Habitat and distribution.* *Allium tel-avivense* ( $2n = 16$ ) (Szelubsky, 1950; Feinbrun, 1950) is endemic

to the coastal plain in Israel and grows on sandy loam and calcareous sandstone hills (Feinbrun-Dothan, 1986: 97; Danin, 2004: 400). The abundance of *A. tel-avivense* was categorized by Fragman et al. (1999: 12) as rare. Danin (2008) reports that nowadays, many



individuals of *A. tel-avivense* still exist in uncultivated lands that remained undisturbed and whose soil fits its preferences. He predicts that as a result of the progress of urbanization and agricultural cultivation of the coastal plain it may be under threat of extinction.

*Specimens examined.* [EZF, A. Eig, M. Zohary & N. Feinbrun; EFZ, A. Eig, N. Feinbrun & M. Zohary. Underlined HUI numbers denote the specimens cited by Feinbrun, 1948]. ISRAEL. **Acco Plain:** Jidro, 25 Mar. 1927, *E. Smoly s.n.* (HUI 25821, 25827). **Philistean Plain:** Environs de Jaffa, Apr. 1900, *R. Yoffé-Rogoff s.n.* (AAR 985); Petah-Tiqva, 10 Mar. 1922, *A. Eig s.n.* (HUI 25826); Nahalat Yehuda, 20 Mar. 1922, *A. Eig s.n.* (HUI 25823); hills on the way to Petah-Tiqva, 10 Apr. 1922, *A. Eig s.n.* (HUI 7426); Petah-Tiqva, 10 Apr. 1922, *A. Eig s.n.* (HUI 25819); Schehunat Borochoy, 11 Mar. 1925, *A. Eig s.n.* (HUI 7442); environs of Wadi Rubin, 25 Feb. 1926, *EZF s.n.* (HUI 25822); environs of Bene Beraq, 18 Mar. 1926, *EFZ s.n.* (HUI 7430); Bash-shit, 3 Apr. 1927, *EFZ s.n.* (HUI 25825); Schehunat Borochoy, 15 Mar. 1927, *EZF s.n.* (HUI 7449); environs of Sarafand, 21 Mar. 1932, *A. Eig & M. Zohary s.n.* (HUI 7450); environs of Tel Aviv, Nahalat Izhak, 7 Apr. 1936, *EZF s.n.* (HUI 25829, HUI 7443). **Sharon Plain:** Herzliya, 4 Mar. 1927, *E. Smoly s.n.* (HUI 25830); Caesarea, 28 Mar. 1927, *E. Smoly s.n.* (HUI 25828); environs of Pardes Hanna, 28 May 1932, *A. Eig & M. Zohary s.n.* (HUI 25820); Zarkaniye, near Binyamina, 13 July 1937, *EZF s.n.* (HUI 7429).

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